NEWS

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Public hearings on proposed mental health services planned

The County of San Bernardino is inviting the public to participate in open hearings to review and comment on the County's draft plan for Community Services and Support as provided within the Mental Health Services Act.

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), more commonly known as Proposition 63, was passed by California voters in November 2004 and imposes an additional 1 percent tax on that portion of a taxpayer's taxable income over \$1 million.

As required by the act, the County Department of Behavioral Health developed the draft Community Services and Support plan with input from local community stakeholders. This process involved a 79-member Community Policy Advisory Committee, community public forums, targeted outreach, stakeholder surveys, workgroups targeted to age and communities, training and technical assistance sessions, and community and staff focus groups.

More than 280 meetings, trainings and events have been held. Consumers, family members and advocates have played a significant role in drafting this phase of the plan, which seeks to enhance the local mental health system for children, youth and adults of all ages throughout the county.

The draft plan is now ready for final public review and comment prior to submission to the California Department of Mental Health. Hearing locations and dates are as follows:

- Tuesday, Jan. 17, 6-8 p.m., Victor Valley Clubhouse, 12625 Hesperia Road, Victorville
- Wednesday, Jan. 18, noon-2 p.m., Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 Twenty-Nine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley

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■ **Thursday, Jan. 19, 6-8 p.m.**, Behavioral Health Resource Center, 850 E. Foothill Blvd., Rialto

A link to the plan and additional information on the MHSA can be found at www.sbcounty.gov.